

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 001377

61

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NSC :MR. SCOWCROFT

AF - EWMULUCAHY

S/S:RKUCHEL

----- 095519

O 030157Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001377

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON ANGOLA

FOR AMBASSADOR

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD

TO HEAD OF HOST GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

QUOTE --

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: (OR APPROPRIATE SALUATION)

DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD IN AFRICAN AND WORLD AFFAIRS,  
I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE YOU MY VIEWS ON  
THE ANGOLAN SITUATION. SINCE YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS  
RECOGNIZED THE MPLA REGIME AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 001377

I BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING

ABOUT OUR POSITION. IN TURN I WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS WHICH, I AM SURE, YOU WILL OFFER IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT I PRESENT MY THOUGHTS TO YOU.

THE OBJECTIVE OF U.S. POLICY IN ANGOLA HAS BEEN TO COUNTER EFFORTS BY THE SOVIET UNION TO IMPOSE ONE FACTION AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. OUR VIEW HAS BEEN THAT

ONLY A GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF ALL GROUPS CAN CLAIM TO REPRESENT THAT COUNTRY. WE HAVE CONSEQUENTLY REFRAINED FROM RECOGNIZING ANY FACTION AS THE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES CALLED FOR AN END TO ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.

AS PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY WHICH HAS GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW SERIOUSLY WE REGARD THIS SOVIET INTERVENTION 8,000 MILES FROM ITS BORDERS, OUTSIDE ITS TRADITIONAL AREA OF SECURITY INTEREST. THE SOVIET ACTION COULD HAVE GRAVE FUTURE IMPLICATIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE SEE THE MPLA AS ONE OF THE THREE LEGITIMATE FACTIONS IN ANGOLA. WE SEEK NEITHER THE DESTRUCTION NOR THE DEFEAT OF THE MPLA. BUT WE DO BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASSUME TOTAL POWER BY FORCE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ARMS. WE HOPE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WILL EMERGE, AND WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

ON THE SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION, I WISH TO STATE THAT THE U.S. IN NO WAY SOUGHT OR ENCOURAGED THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANGOLA NOR WERE WE CONSULTED. THEY ACTED NO DOUBT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST AS THEY SEE IT. WE DID NOT INITIATE ANY CONSULTATION WITH THEM AND HAVE MAINTAINED OUR MILITARY EMBARGO ON ALL ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THEIR PRESENCE AND DESIRE IT TO END JUST  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 001377

AS WE DO THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO BRING ABOUT THEIR WITHDRAWAL IN THE INTEREST OF WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES.

THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA CAN CLEARLY BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN PROMOTING AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING AND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CIVIL WAR. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE OAU WILL INSIST UPON A PROMPT

END TO ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, ARRANGE A  
STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THE FORCES, AND BRING  
ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE ANGOLAN GROUPS. MY GOVERN-  
MENT WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AN INITIATIVE AND COOPERATE  
WITH IT, PROVIDED OTHER DISTANT POWERS DO SO AS WELL.  
WE WOULD ALSO IN THAT CASE URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO END  
ITS INVOLVEMENT. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, STAND IDLY BY

" SECRET

IF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION PERSISTS.

I WOULD BE PLEASED TO LEARN YOUR REACTION TO THE  
FOREGOING AND I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE  
VIEWS ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.  
SINCERELY GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE

INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, TEXT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE001377  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WESCHAUFLELE, JR.  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P840093-1434  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760188/aaaadafu.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON ANGOLA  
**TAGS:** PREL, OFDP, PFOR, AO, US, XA, MPLA, (FORD, GERALD R), (FORD, GERALD)  
**To:** LAGOS ACCRA KHARTOUM MULTIPLE DAR ES SALAAM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006